

# HONDA

American Honda Motor Co., Inc.  
1919 Torrance Boulevard  
Torrance, CA 90501 2746  
Phone (310) 783 2000

May 13, 2002

Mr. Kenneth Weinstein,  
Associate Administrator  
Office of Safety Assurance  
NATIONAL HIGHWAY TRAFFIC SAFETY  
ADMINISTRATION  
400 Seventh St., S.W.  
Washington, DC 20590

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2002 MAY 16 A 10:22  
OFFICE OF SAFETY ASSURANCE  
NATIONAL HIGHWAY TRAFFIC SAFETY  
ADMINISTRATION

02V-120 ① of ④

Dear Mr. Weinstein:

On April 22, 2002, Honda Motor Co., Ltd. (HMC) determined that a defect relating to motor vehicle safety exists in certain the ignition switch assemblies in the vehicles listed below. On April 26, this office advised Ms. Kelly Schuler of the Office of Defects Investigation (ODI) of the determination of defect, and, subsequently, on April 29, Mr. Jon White of ODI was advised that because of a week-long holiday period in Japan, Honda requested a delay in providing written verification of the details of defect and recall until May 10, which was granted. Finally, questions arose as to the necessity of a recall, which was discussed with Kathy DeMeter of ODI and with you, on this date. Therefore, this letter is now being given to your office.

The following information is submitted pursuant to the requirements of 49 CFR 573.5. The report contains preliminary information. The remaining information will be provided to NHTSA as soon as it has been gathered.

573.5(c)(1)

**Name of manufacturer:** Honda Motor Co., Ltd. (HMC)  
Honda of America Mfg., Inc. (HAM)  
Honda of Canada Mfg. (HCM)

**Manufacturer's Agent:** William R. Willen  
American Honda Motor Co., Inc. (AHM)  
1919 Torrance Blvd.  
Torrance, CA 90501-2746

573.5(c)(2)

**Identification of potentially affected vehicles:**

<u>Make/Model</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>VINs/Dates of Manufacture</u>
Honda Accord sedan	Certain 1997 model year Certain 1998 model year Certain 1999 model year	Information for all models will be submitted as soon as possible.

573.5(c)(2)

**Identification of potentially affected vehicles:**

<u>Make/Model</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>VINs/Dates of Manufacture</u>
Honda Accord coupe	Certain 1997 model year	Information for all models will be submitted as soon as possible.
	Certain 1998 model year	
	Certain 1999 model year	
Honda Civic sedan	Certain 1998 model year	
	Certain 1999 model year	
	Certain 2000 model year	
Honda Civic hatchback	Certain 1998 model year	
	Certain 1999 model year	
	Certain 2000 model year	
Honda Prelude	Certain 1997 model year	
	Certain 1998 model year	
	Certain 1999 model year	
Honda CR-V	Certain 1997 model year	
	Certain 1998 model year	
	Certain 1999 model year	
Honda Odyssey	Certain 1997 model year	
	Certain 1998 model year	
	Certain 1999 model year	
Isuzu Oasis	Certain 1998 model year	
	Certain 1999 model year	
Acura TL	Certain 1999 model year	
Acura CL	Certain 1997 model year	
	Certain 1998 model year	
	Certain 1999 model year	

**Description of the basis for the determination of the recall population:**

The affected vehicles have an electronic control unit, which was supplied by a specific vendor, that has higher current draw during engine start-up. Unaffected vehicles were equipped with an electronic control unit that has a lower current draw on start-up, which was supplied by a different vendor.

573.5(c)(3)

**Total number of vehicles potentially affected:** To be submitted as soon as possible.

573.5(c)(4)

**Percentage of affected vehicles that contain the defect:** Unknown

573.5(c)(5)

**Defect description:**

**Summary**

Premature failure of the ignition switch could cause the car to stall without warning.

**Detail**

The electrical control unit (ECU) used on the affected vehicles required a higher current demand at start-up than the previous ECU. The high current surge passing through the ignition switch during the initial start-up eventually degrades the switch contacts. Worn contacts could cause the engine to stall without warning, but the engine can be restarted immediately.

573.5(c)(6)

**Chronology:**

Jul. 21, 1998	HMC became aware of ignition switch failure complaints in a domestic model used as a commercial delivery vehicle in the Japan market. An investigation was initiated.
March 1999	HMC began installing a redesigned electronic control unit (lower current demand) during production.
April 1999 and November 1999	Ignition switches were improved to increase durability for commercial usage. The vendor applied upgrades to all similar ignition switches for parts commonality.
September 2001	U.S. reports of ignition problems on TL models were sent to Japan. HAM initiated an investigation in the United States. HMC reopened the investigation.
Apr. 16, 2002	HMC completed the investigation and analysis.
Apr. 22, 2002	HMC determined that a safety-related defect exists.

573.5(c)(8)(i)

**Program for remedying the defect:**

Dealers will install an upgraded ignition switch, free of charge, in all affected vehicles.

573.5(c)(8)(ii)

**The estimated date to begin sending notifications to owners:** June 2002

**The estimated date to begin sending notifications to dealers:** May 2002

**The estimated date of completion of the notification:** August 2002

573.5(c)(9)

**Representative copies of all notices, bulletins and other communications:**

A copy of the dealer service bulletin and text of the final customer notification letter will be submitted to your office as soon as possible.

573.5(c)(10)

**Proposed owner notification letter submission:**

A draft of the owner notification letter will be submitted to your office as soon as possible.

Sincerely,

AMERICAN HONDA MOTOR CO., INC.



William R. Willen  
Managing Counsel  
Product Regulatory Office

WRW:ke



American Honda Motor Co., Inc.  
1919 Torrance Boulevard  
Torrance, CA 90501 2/46  
Phone (310) 783 2000

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May 23, 2002

02V-120

DEFECTS INVESTIGATION

Mr. Kenneth Weinstein,  
Associate Administrator  
Office of Safety Assurance  
NATIONAL HIGHWAY TRAFFIC SAFETY  
ADMINISTRATION  
400 Seventh St., S.W.  
Washington, DC 20590

VIA FACSIMILE

02V-120 ① of ④

Dear Mr. Weinstein:

On May 13, 2002, Honda submitted a 573 notification containing preliminary information for campaign 02V-120 to replace ignition switches in various Honda and Acura vehicles. We are now submitting the final information for this campaign. Please note that subsequent to our May 13 notification, we learned that the 2000 Odyssey and 1997 Oasis are also affected.

573.5(c)(2)

**Identification of potentially affected vehicles:**

The VIN ranges below are inclusive of all affected vehicles; however, not every VIN in the range is affected.

<u>Make/Model</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>VINs/Dates of Manufacture</u>
Honda Accord sedan	Certain 1997 model year	1HGCD5535VA000001 – 1HGCD5632VA280040 Apr. 18, 1996 to Aug. 22, 1997
		JHMCD5632VC000005 – JHMCD5630VC022004 Mar. 24, 1996 to Aug. 1, 1998
	Certain 1998 model year	1HGCF8545WA000036 – 1HGCF8640WA271133 May 13, 1997 to Sep. 15, 1998
		1HGCG5641WA000013 – 1HGCG5649WA272759 Apr. 3, 1997 to Sep. 18, 1998
	Certain 1999 model year	1HGCF8545XA000006 – 1HGCF8642XA163632 Aug. 20, 1998 to Jul. 23, 1999
		1HGCG5645XA000002 – 1HGCG5547XA165177 Jul. 20, 1998 to Jul. 26, 1999
		JHMCG5646XC000009 – JHMCG5551XC050844 Jun. 29, 1998 to Apr. 12, 1999
		1HGCG6650XA000004 – 1HGCG6652XA165178 Aug. 18, 1998 to Jul. 27, 1999
		JHMCG6657XC000003 – JHMCG6674XC028908 Aug. 7, 1998 to Apr. 13, 1999

573.5(c)(2)

**Identification of potentially affected vehicles:**

<u>Make/Model</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>VINs/Dates of Manufacture</u>
Honda Accord coupe	Certain 1997 model year	1HGCD7133VA000001 – 1HGCD7239VA037892 May 2, 1996 to Jun. 16, 1997
	Certain 1998 model year	1HGCG2656WA000001 – 1HGCG2257WA035295 May 20, 1997 to Sep. 22, 1998
	Certain 1999 model year	1HGCG2257XA000001 – 1HGCG2253XA033626 May 7, 1998 to Aug. 9, 1999
Honda Civic sedan	Certain 1998 model year	2HGEJ6527WH500002 – 2HGEJ6672WH630943 2HGEJ8649WH500062 – 2HGEJ8640WH629260 Aug. 12, 1997 to Oct. 5, 1998
	Certain 1999 model year	2HGEJ6675XH500009 – 2HGEJ6618XH595659 2HGEJ864XXH500069 – 2HGEJ8647XH592659 Sep. 29, 1998 to Aug. 24, 1999
	Certain 2000 model year	2HGEJ6610YH500061 – 2HGEJ6670YH502580 2HGEJ8645YH501681 – 2HGEJ8547YH502638 Aug. 24, 1999 to Aug. 30, 1999
Honda Civic hatchback	Certain 1998 model year	2HGEJ6325WH100006 – 2HGEJ6443WH122764 Aug. 21, 1997 to Sep. 28, 1998
	Certain 1999 model year	2HGEJ644XXH100018 – 2HGEJ6343XH113789 Oct. 7, 1998 to Aug. 19, 1999
	Certain 2000 model year	2HGEJ6442YH100001 – 2HGEJ6449YH100240 Aug. 11, 1999 to Aug. 26, 1999
Honda Prelude	Certain 1997 model year	JHMBB6240VC000073 – JHMBB6148VC016586 Sep. 25, 1996 to Jul. 29, 1997
	Certain 1998 model year	JHMBB6144WC000001 – JHMBB6157WC015973 Aug. 19, 1997 to Jul. 31, 1998
	Certain 1999 model year	JHMBB6143XC000007 – JHMBB6158XC008578 Aug. 3, 1998 to Mar. 18, 1999
Honda CR-V	Certain 1997 model year	JHLRD1859VC000105 – JHLRD1853VC073647 Dec. 2, 1996 to Dec. 3, 1997
	Certain 1998 model year	JHLRD1861WC030001 – JHLRD176XWC107613 Nov. 24, 1997 to Oct. 30, 1998
		JHLRD2843WC000020 – JHLRD284XWC019194 Nov. 27, 1997 to Oct. 30, 1998
	Certain 1999 model year	JHLRD1865XC000016 – JHLRD1864XC040555 Nov. 2, 1998 to Apr. 2, 1999
		JHLRD2841XC000003 – JHLRD2842XC010667 Nov. 5, 1998 to Apr. 1, 1999

573.5(c)(2)

**Identification of potentially affected vehicles:**

<u>Make/Model</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>VINs/Dates of Manufacture</u>
Honda Odyssey	Certain 1997 model year	JHMRA1876VC000004 – JHMRA1872VC022243 Aug. 28, 1996 to Aug. 1, 1997
	Certain 1998 model year	JHMRA3864WC000023 – JHMRA3874WC014626 Aug. 28, 1997 to Jul. 1, 1998
	Certain 1999 model year	2HKRL186XXH500001 – 2HKRL1851XH547277 Aug. 5, 1998 to Aug. 12, 1999
	Certain 2000 model year	2HKRL1860YH500011 – 2HKRL186XYH500064 Aug. 10, 1999 to Aug. 10, 1999
Isuzu Oasis	Certain 1997 model year	JR2RJ187XVC000003 – JR2RJ1874VC001602 Dec. 2, 1996 to Jul. 28, 1997
	Certain 1998 model year	JR2RJ2861WC000003 – JR2RJ286XWC001702 Sep. 1, 1997 to Aug. 17, 1998
	Certain 1999 model year	JR2RJ2875XC000001 – JR2RJ286XXC000602 Sep. 23, 1998 to Mar. 15, 1999
Acura TL	Certain 1999 model year	19UUA5648XA000002 – 19UUA5640XA055785 Jan. 7, 1998 to Aug. 26, 1999
Acura CL	Certain 1997 model year	19UYA2256VL000001 – 19UYA2259VL020419 Aug. 20, 1996 to Sep. 30, 1997
	Certain 1998 model year	19UYA2254WL000001 – 19UYA2254WL014481 Jun. 5, 1997 to Aug. 25, 1998
		19UYA3248WL000001 – 19UYA3159WL011003 Apr. 28, 1997 to Aug. 25, 1998
	Certain 1999 model year	19UYA2252XL000001 – 19UYA2255XL014944 Oct. 7, 1998 to Aug. 24, 1999
		19UYA3255XL000001 – 19UYA3253XL010025 Sep. 9, 1998 to Aug. 24, 1999

573.5(c)(3)

**Total number of vehicles potentially affected:** 1,338,000

573.5(c)(4)

**Percentage of affected vehicles that contain the defect:** Approx. 58%

Mr. Kenneth Weinstein

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May 23, 2002

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If you have any questions, please contact me at your earliest convenience.

Sincerely,

AMERICAN HONDA MOTOR CO., INC.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "William R. Willen", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

William R. Willen

Managing Counsel

Product Regulatory Office

WRW:ke